

Claims:

What is claimed is:

1           **1.**     A method for enhancing load controlling of a Web site including a plurality of  
2 individual servers and a Network Control Scheduler (NCS), said Web site using the Hyper  
3 Text Transport Protocol (HTTP), said method comprising the steps of:

4           in any one server out of said plurality of individual servers:

5           issuing instructions to said NCS;

6           receiving said instructions in said NCS from said any one server; and

7           complying with said received instructions.

1           **2.**     The method of claim 1 wherein the step of issuing instructions includes the  
2 step of:

3           passing said instructions to said NCS in a NCS-control HTTP header, said passing  
4 step further including the steps of:

5           including directives to be obeyed by said NCS; and

6           optionally including a filter to limit the scope of application of said directive.

1           **3.**     The method according to claim 2 wherein said directives includes:

2           flow-control directives;

3           sharing directives; and

4           NCS-queuing directives.

1       **4.** The method according to claim 3 wherein said flow-control directives include:  
2           an increase-rate directive to require said NCS to increase the rate at which requests to  
3       said any one server are sent;  
4           a decrease-rate directive to require said NCS to decrease the rate at which requests to  
5       said any one server are sent;  
6           an increase-window directive to require said NCS to increase the number of jobs  
7       allowed to be simultaneously processed in said any one server; and  
8           a decrease-window directive to require said NCS to decrease the number of jobs  
9       allowed to be simultaneously processed in said any one server.

1       **5.** The method according to claim 4 wherein said sharing directives include:  
2           a share directive aimed at enabling an information sharing within all members of said  
3       plurality of individual servers and said NCS; and  
4           a clear directive aimed at clearing a previous said information sharing.

1       **6.** The method according to claim 5 wherein said NCS-queuing directives include:  
2           a lock directive aimed at locking resources identified by said filter; and  
3       an unlock directive aimed at releasing previously locked said resources.

1           **7.** A system, in particular a Network Control Scheduler comprising means adapted for  
2 carrying out the method according to claim 6.

1           **8.** A computer readable medium comprising instructions for carrying out the  
2 method according to claim 7.

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